Boxborough (Ms)
March 4

6

Rev. Amos A. Phelps,
Boston,
Mass.

—Single—

P.S. I would go still more into "detail" — if I had time & leisure. It is now Saturday 10 o'clock A.M. — no Sermons for the Sabbath — two letters to write and a Call from Unionville to answer before I sleep! Think you will pardon me. I shall probably go to Unionville — they offer me $700 per annum.

By the way, in looking over the Chris. Spec. for the year 1826 — page 665 — I saw an important notice of an A.S. Convention, held in Baltimore, on the 25th Oct. 1826 — attended by Delegates from Vir. N. Car. Ten. Maryland & Delaware with resolutions passed on that occasion in full.

Will you look at it & put your metaphysical scissors into it! The resolutions, (some of them,) are as radical and ultra, as the lucubrations of the +"Lion-hearted" Editor of the Liberator.

Yours truly

J. M. Keep

+ Vide O. Scott's letter to Garrison.

verbatim. The sole design of the resolution was completely thwarted. All that was done was this. "The Rel. Char. Soc. *do recommend* to their Auxiliaries, *suitably* to notice the A.S. Society in their annual Charities". So the whole matter was put into an enigmatical nutshell. Now for the "*why* you acted as you did, in the matter". The easiest answer to this question is, "because we could'nt help it, as the wedge said to the beetle." It was not the action which *I* desired most surely.

Well that is the point, I suppose. You wish to know the motive, that actuated me in offering the resolution. You shall have it. I conscientiously felt that the A.S. Soc. was as worthy of our desires & dollars as the Tract or Ed. Soc.s And I conjectured,— *I knew*, it would be very convenient & agreeable to the people generally, to have that cause presented to them, at the same time, and in *the same manner*, with others. How that is, you will know, by recollecting a little book, which you saw at my house, just prepared for the Collectors, and from which you made some extracts— one page of which was as follows,

Anti-Slavery Society "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them" &c. &c. There was nothing said about National or State Societies. We spoke of the A.S. *cause* or *enterprise* as worthy of countenance & assistance. I believe I did say, that by this arrangement, we might collect funds for the cause, without the aid of Agents, *in those places, where their presence was unwelcome* & *their labours* undesirable. Again, I said, we ought to give in this cause, as in all others from *principle*, rather than impulse. In a word, my sole motive was to enlist the prayers & alms of this Society, in behalf of the poor slave.

Yours for God & the Slave, Jos. Warren Cross

Boxboro' Mar. 2d. 1839.

Dear Brother,

Yours of the 28th. ult°. is before me. I go at once into "the detail". There has never to my knowledge been any action whatever upon the subject of Slavery, by "the Rel. Char. Soc. of Mid. North & Vicinity", until their last meeting in Nov. at Lunenburg. And then there was no action — it was all talk; or as Hamlet says, "words, words words"! I myself moved, that the circle of our benevolence be so widened as to embrace the poor down-trodden slave. Or more definitely, I prepared and offered a resolution to this effect — almost, I think in these words, "Resolved, that the A. S. Cause is one, that commends itself to our sympathies, prayers & benefactions; and that it henceforward have a place among the objects of our Religious Charities." Those objects are the following, to wit; For. Missions, Home Missions, Ed. Soc. Bible Soc. & Tract Socs. I made an awkward, disjointed, characteristic kind of an harangue in support of the resolution — but it was ~~no go~~ like the fruitless labour of that unfortunate chap of yore, who, after tugging & sweating to roll the "big stone" up the hill, experienced the chagrin and mortification of seeing it go thundering to the plain again. I would quote the Latin if I had patience! No matter. Br. Woodbury, from whose broad shoulders I had expected a mighty lift, had gone homewards — and "the Secretary stood alone"! What could I do! Br. Fisher said, if we enlarge the list by appending the A. S. Society, some one else would be as earnest and eloquent to add the Colonization Society — the Moral Reform Soc. — the Tem. Soc. — until we should swell the Catalogue to an octavo. I don't pretend to report in full, nor